

## Press release

Press enquiries:

Jon Copestake Tel: +44 (0)20 7576 8221 / joncopestake@eiu.com

Joanne McKenna Tel: +44 (0)20 7576 8188 / joannemckenna@eiu.com

Embargoed until: 17.30 GMT Monday, June 8th 2009

### European cities among best places to live

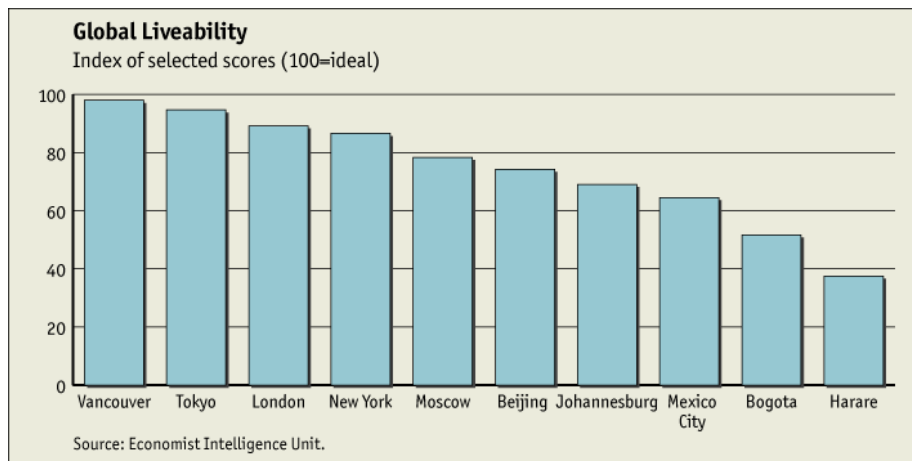
according to Economist Intelligence Unit's latest liveability survey

**The latest Economist Intelligence Unit global liveability survey puts four European cities in the top ten, of 140 surveyed. Vienna in Austria is second only to Vancouver at the top of the league table and most European cities occupy the top tier of liveability. The unfolding political, social and economic crisis in Zimbabwe means Harare comes bottom with the lowest liveability score.**

Jon Copestake, editor of the report, comments: "European cities fare well thanks to a developed infrastructure and a wide availability of goods and services. Some destinations in Eastern Europe suffer from greater instability, but few locations present significant challenges. "

#### About the Liveability survey

The Economist Intelligence Unit's **LIVEABILITY RANKING**, part of the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey, assesses living conditions in 140 cities around the world by assigning a rating of relative comfort for over 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories: stability; healthcare; culture and environment; education; and infrastructure. The survey gives an overall rating of 0-100, where 1 is intolerable and 100 is ideal. Any city with a rating of 80 or more will have few, if any, challenges to living standards, while any city with a score of 50 or less will present daily challenges to living standards.



Vienna (Austria) is followed by Melbourne (Australia) in third place. Toronto (Canada) has seen a slight improvement in its index, bringing it up to fourth place, from sixth previously. Canadian and Australian cities account for six of the top ten, with Vienna, Helsinki (Finland), Zurich and Geneva (both Switzerland) making up the most liveable destinations surveyed. Cities that score best tend to be mid-sized, in developed countries with a low population density, benefiting from cultural or recreational availability but with lower crime levels or infrastructure problems that can be caused by large populations.

At the other end of the ranking, most of the poorest-performing locations are in Africa or Asia, where civil instability and poor infrastructure present significant challenges (the survey does not include locations such as Afghanistan or Iraq). The prospect of violence, whether through domestic protests, civil war or

EIU Liveability press release June 2009

1

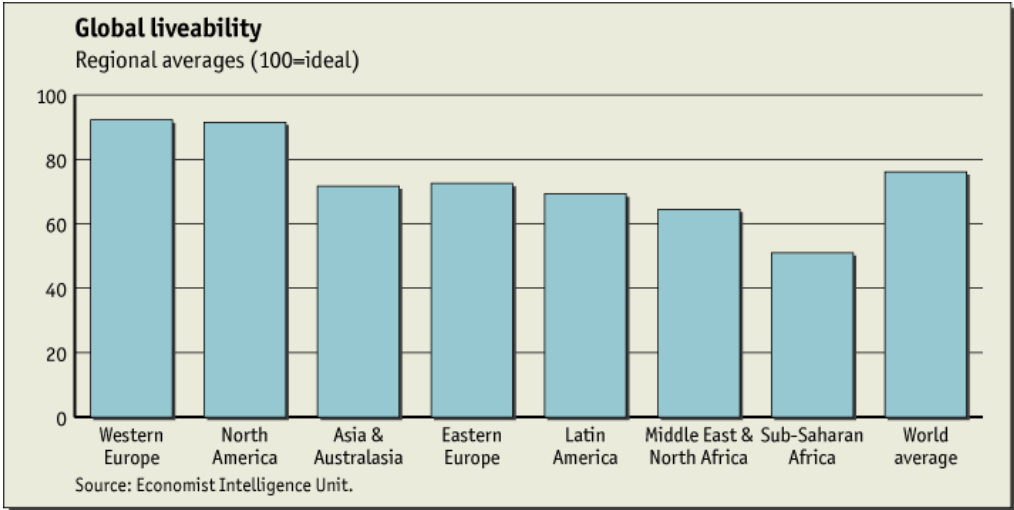
the threat of foreign incursion, plays a significant role in the poorest-performing cities. This can exacerbate the impact of instability on other key liveability categories, such as infrastructure, healthcare indicators or the availability (or freedom) of certain activities.

- **Vancouver remains top with a rating of 98%. Only petty crime and the availability of good-quality housing present any challenges.**
- **There is little real difference within the top ten. Sydney and Zurich, in joint ninth, each have a score only around 2% lower than that for Vancouver.**
- **64 cities achieve scores of more than 80%, while 13 cities occupy the very bottom tier of liveability, where ratings fall below 50%.**

**Average regional performances**

(100=ideal and 0=intolerable)

	Average rating	Stability	Healthcare	Culture & environment	Education	Infrastructure
Western Europe	92.2	87	95.7	93.3	93.8	93.1
North America	91.5	86	93.4	92	98.3	92.5
Asia & Australasia	71.7	74.5	69.4	67.8	77.2	72.5
Eastern Europe	72.5	71.1	73.2	75.3	78	67.1
Latin America	69.3	60.7	66.9	78.8	77.8	66.6
Middle East & North Africa	64.5	72.1	63.7	53.6	67.6	67.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	51	44.4	39.8	63.9	56.5	51.6
World average	76.1	74.5	75.4	76.1	81.1	76.2



**Few problems in developed regions**

With the exception of high scores in Australasia and some Asian centres, most of the better-scoring locations are based in the more developed regions of Western Europe and North America. This is unsurprising, given the implied stability and mature infrastructures offered by the two regions. The West European and North American averages are, respectively, only 5.8% and 6.5% short of top-scoring Vancouver. No city in either region falls below the highest-rated category for liveability, which can give any city a claim to occupy the same tier of liveability as top-scoring Vancouver and Vienna.

Athens (Greece, 63rd) fares worst in Western Europe, with an overall score of 81.2%, failing to match the regional average in any category and suffering from educational and infrastructural challenges similar to less-developed locations. Lexington (US, 59th) fares worst in North America with an overall score of 85.8%. As a much smaller city than many in the US, Lexington scores more highly in terms of stability owing to the lower threat from crime. However, the downside to its smaller size is a lower availability of cultural or recreational activities.

**EU members top East European ranking**

Only two cities, Budapest (Hungary, 55th) and Prague (Czech Republic, 60th), fall into the very top category where there are few, if any, challenges to living standards. Along with Bratislava (Slovakia, 65th), they make up a trio of top-ranked cities in the region, all countries of which have EU membership. In some countries, civil or regional tensions and stability are a challenge, for example in Tashkent

EIU Liveability press release June 2009

(Uzbekistan, 121st). Its score of 55.9% makes it the only city in the Central and Eastern Europe region where liveability is substantially constrained.

### About the Liveability survey

The Economist Intelligence Unit's **LIVEABILITY RANKING**, part of the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey, assesses living conditions in 140 cities around the world by assigning a rating of relative comfort for over 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories: stability; healthcare; culture and environment; education; and infrastructure. The survey gives an overall rating of 0-100, where 1 is intolerable and 100 is ideal. Any city with a rating of 80 or more will have few, if any, challenges to living standards, while any city with a score of 50 or less will present daily challenges to living standards.

**Economist Intelligence Unit's Liveability Survey  
is available from the Economist Intelligence Unit.  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7576 8181, or by email at london@eiu.com  
or online via www.eiu.com**

### About the Economist Intelligence Unit

The Economist Intelligence Unit is the business information arm of The Economist Group, publisher of *The Economist*. Through our global network of over 100 in-house editors and economists, and a global network of over 700 contributors, we continuously assess and forecast political, economic and business conditions in more than 200 countries. As the world's leading provider of country intelligence, we help executives make better business decisions by providing timely, reliable and impartial analysis on worldwide market trends and business strategies.

More than 500,000 customers in corporations, banks, universities and government institutions rely on our intelligence. In order to meet the needs of executives like these, we provide a full range of print and electronic delivery channels and have developed a portfolio of leading electronic services. These include: eiu.com, a virtual library with access to all of our publications, and store.eiu.com, our transactional site; viewswire.com, which provides daily and operational intelligence on countries worldwide; Executive Services, which provides insight and analysis on global business and management trends; and Data Services, a portfolio of economic and market indicators and forecasts.

### Economist Intelligence Unit Liveability Survey 2009

**This full listing is for journalists' information only. © 2009 The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited.  
You may report on it but you may not reproduce all or a substantial part of the table.**

Country	City	Rank	Overall Rating (100=ideal)
Canada	Vancouver	1	98.0
Austria	Vienna	2	97.9
Australia	Melbourne	3	97.5
Canada	Toronto	4	97.2
Australia	Perth	5	96.6
Canada	Calgary	5=	96.6
Finland	Helsinki	7	96.2
Switzerland	Geneva	8	96.1
Australia	Sydney	9=	96.1
Switzerland	Zurich	9=	96.1
Australia	Adelaide	11	95.9
New Zealand	Auckland	12	95.7
Japan	Osaka	13	95.2
Sweden	Stockholm	14	95.0
Germany	Hamburg	14=	95.0
Australia	Brisbane	16	94.9
Canada	Montreal	17	94.8
France	Paris	17=	94.8
Germany	Frankfurt	19	94.7
Japan	Tokyo	19=	94.7
Denmark	Copenhagen	21	94.4
Germany	Berlin	22	94.0
New Zealand	Wellington	23	93.8
Norway	Oslo	24	93.4
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	25	93.3

Netherlands	Amsterdam	26	92.8
Belgium	Brussels	27	92.7
Germany	Munich	28	92.6
US	Pittsburgh	29	92.3
US	Honolulu	30	92.1
US	Chicago	31	91.8
Germany	Dusseldorf	32	91.4
US	Detroit	32=	91.4
France	Lyon	34	91.3
Spain	Barcelona	35	91.2
US	Washington DC	35=	91.2
US	Atlanta	37	91.1
US	Miami	37=	91.1
Spain	Madrid	39	90.9
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	39=	90.9
Iceland	Reykjavik	41	90.6
US	Boston	42	90.5
US	Minneapolis	42=	90.5
US	Houston	44	90.4
US	Cleveland	45	90.3
US	Seattle	46	90.0
UK	Manchester	46=	90.0
US	Los Angeles	48	89.8
Ireland	Dublin	49	89.6
Italy	Milan	50	89.5
UK	London	51	89.2
Italy	Rome	52	89.0
US	San Francisco	53	88.7

Singapore	Singapore	54	88.5
Hungary	Budapest	55	88.2
US	New York	56	86.6
Portugal	Lisbon	57	86.5
South Korea	Seoul	58	85.9
US	Lexington	59	85.8
Czech Rep	Prague	60	84.0
Argentina	Buenos Aires	61	83.6
Taiwan	Taipei	62	81.9
Greece	Athens	63	81.2
Chile	Santiago	64	80.7
Slovakia	Bratislava	65	79.8
Uruguay	Montevideo	66	79.1
New Caledonia	Nouméa	67	78.5
Russia	St Petersburg	67=	78.5
Russia	Moscow	69	78.4
Poland	Warsaw	70	78.2
Puerto Rico	San Juan	70=	78.2
China	Tianjin	72	75.2
Costa Rica	San Jose	72=	75.2
China	Suzhou	74	74.7
UAE	Abu Dhabi	74=	74.7
China	Beijing	76	74.3
Israel	Tel Aviv	77	74.2
Amman	Muscat	78	74.1
Bulgaria	Sofia	79	74.0
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	79=	74.0
Bahrain	Bahrain	81	73.4
Peru	Lima	82	72.9
China	Shenzhen	83	72.8
China	Shanghai	84	72.3
Romania	Bucharest	85	71.8
China	Dalian	85=	71.8
UAE	Dubai	87	71.3
Panama	Panama City	88	70.3
China	Guangzhou	89	69.8
Kuwait	Kuwait City	90	69.6
Ukraine	Kiev	91	69.2
South Africa	Johannesburg	92	69.1
Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	92=	69.1
Brazil	Sao Paulo	92=	69.1
China	Qingdao	95	68.4
Qatar	Doha	96	69.7
Jordan	Amman	96	68.3
South Africa	Pretoria	98	68.0
Kazakhstan	Almaty	99	67.9
Thailand	Bangkok	100	67.4
Serbia & Montenegro	Belgrade	101	67.2
Paraguay	Asuncion	101=	67.2
Tunisia	Tunis	103	66.4
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	104	65.9
Mexico	Mexico City	105	64.5
Ecuador	Quito	106	62.5
Libya	Tripoli	107	62.3
Philippines	Manila	108	62.0
Azerbaijan	Baku	109	60.7
Turkey	Istanbul	110	60.6

Morocco	Casablanca	111	60.3
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	111=	60.3
Syria	Damascus	113	58.8
Egypt	Cairo	114	58.6
India	New Delhi	114=	58.6
Saudi Arabia	Jeddah	116	58.4
Guatemala	Guatemala City	117	58.3
Venezuela	Caracas	118	57.7
Saudi Arabia	Al Khobar	119	56.6
India	Mumbai	120	56.2
Uzbekistan	Tashkent	121	55.9
Kenya	Nairobi	122	54.8
Indonesia	Jakarta	123	54.6
Vietnam	Hanoi	124	54.2
Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City	125	52.4
Zambia	Lusaka	126	51.8
Colombia	Bogota	127	51.7
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	128	49.8
Iran	Tehran	129	48.3
Sri Lanka	Colombo	130	48.0
Senegal	Dakar	131	46.8
Côte d'Ivoire	Abidjan	132	46.6
Nepal	Kathmandu	133	46.4
Cameroon	Douala	134	45.4
Pakistan	Karachi	135	42.1
Nigeria	Lagos	136	39.0
PNG	Port Moresby	137	38.9
Algeria	Algiers	138	38.7
Bangladesh	Dhaka	138=	38.7
Zimbabwe	Harare	140	37.5

EIU Liveability press release June 2009

4